

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the second member comprising a web portion medially disposed between opposing flanges, the clip comprising:

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a planar base plate comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member, the base operably fixable to the first member to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member; and

a guide depending from the base plate adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement, the guide comprising: opposing arms with smooth surfaces extending substantially transversely to the base second surface defining a channel that is receivingly engageable with and adaptively substantially spans the second member permitting sliding freedom of movement between the guide and the second member in a sliding relationship during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis

a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base plate comprising a first bearing surface slidably engageable against one side of the second member; and
a second arm extending from the base plate oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm, comprising a second bearing surface slidably engageable against another side of the second member, at least one of the bearing surfaces operatively engaging the second member adjacent each of the flanges during the displacement between the joined members.

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3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The clip of claim 2 wherein the ~~opposing~~ arms are selectively spatially disposed to ~~operatively~~ adaptively engage the second member ~~web~~ with a selected frictional resistance to the ~~operative~~ sliding engagement.

5. (previously presented) The clip of claim 2 wherein the guide defines an opening in at least one of the arms adapted for admitting a retainer limiting displacement of the guide relative to the second member when an edge of the opening pressingly engages against the retainer.

6. (currently amended) The clip of claim 5 wherein the opening comprises a slotted opening ~~extending~~ adapted to extend substantially along a longitudinal axis of the second member.

7. (currently amended) The clip of claim 2 wherein the first member comprises a medial web and opposing ~~outer~~ flanges defining a cavity, wherein the base is adapted to substantially laterally span the cavity.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The clip of claim 2 comprising a unitary construction.

12. (currently amended) The clip of claim 2 wherein the base is fixable to the first member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the ~~channel~~ arms.

13. (previously presented) The clip of claim 5 wherein the guide further comprises an indicia adaptively indicating a nominal position of the retainer.

14. (previously presented) The clip of claim 13 wherein the indicia comprises an alignment mark.

15. (previously presented) The clip of claim 13 wherein the indicia comprises a shaker tab.

16. (currently amended) A clip for joining a first ~~longitudinal~~ framing member transversely to a second ~~longitudinal~~ framing member in a slip joint ~~for operatively~~ permitting displacement between the joined framing members ~~along the operative~~ disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

a planar base plate comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first framing member web to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

a guide depending from the base plate providing a channel adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member web to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transversely from the base plate proximally adjacent the base second surface; and

a second arm extending from the base plate oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm and proximally adjacent the base second surface,

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the arms ~~comprising bearing surfaces~~ defining opposing sides of the a
channel ~~to operatively adaptively substantially span~~ adapted to slidably
constrain the second member ~~and that are selectively spaced apart in~~
~~relation to the characteristic arrangement of the second member to~~
~~adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second~~
~~member web~~ permitting freedom of movement only in the direction of the
arms during the displacement between the members ~~along the operative~~
~~disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.~~

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the guide defines an
opening in at least one of the arms adapted ~~or~~ for admitting a retainer limiting
displacement of the guide relative to the second member when an edge of the opening
pressingly engages against the retainer.

19. (currently amended) The clip of claim 18 wherein the opening comprises
a slotted opening ~~extending~~ adapted to extend substantially along a longitudinal axis of
the second member.

20. (currently amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the first framing member
comprises a web and flanges ~~define~~ defining a cavity, wherein the base adaptively
~~substantially laterally~~ spans the cavity.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein both of the arms are ~~operatively slidingly engageable~~ adapted to pressingly against the second framing member ~~web~~.

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23. (currently amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the second framing member comprises a web medially disposed between opposing flanges, wherein ~~one~~ of the arms is ~~operatively slidingly engageable~~ adapted to pressingly engage against the second member web and at least a portion of one of the opposing arms is ~~operatively slidingly engageable~~ adapted to pressingly engage against at least one of the second framing member flanges.

24. (previously presented) The clip of claim 16 comprising a unitary construction.

25. (currently amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the base plate is fixable to the first framing member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the arms.

26. (previously presented) A wall framing assembly, comprising:

a first track;

a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;

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a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud comprising a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between a first end and a second end of the stud; a clip operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

- a base fixed to the first track; and
- a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms defining a channel receivingly engaging the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship; and

a fastener connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track.

27. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein the base has a planar first surface and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms comprise a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

28. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein the arms are selectively spatially disposed to operatively engage the second member web with a selected frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement.

29. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein the guide defines a slotted opening in at least one of the arms extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the stud.

30. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein both of the arms are engageable against the web.

31. (previously presented) A wall framing assembly, comprising:

a first track;

a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;

a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud comprising a

longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal

extending stiffening flanges between a first end and a second end of the stud;

a clip operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip

joint, the clip comprising:

a base fixed to the first track; and

a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms, at least one of the

arms compressingly engaging the selected stud's web in a characteristic

operative sliding relationship; and

a fastener connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track.

32. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 31 wherein the base has a planar first surface and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms

comprise a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

33. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 31 wherein the guide defines a slotted opening in at least one of the arms extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the stud.

34. (previously presented) The wall assembly of claim 31 wherein both of the arms compressingly engage against the web.

35. (previously presented) A method of framing a wall structure, comprising:
providing a first track;
providing a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;
providing a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between ends of the stud;
providing a clip for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:
a base fixable to the first track; and

a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms defining channel
receivingly engageable with the selected stud's web in a characteristic
operative sliding relationship;
engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip;
connecting the clip to the first track with a fastener; and
connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track with a fastener.

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36. (previously presented) A method of framing a wall structure, comprising:
providing a first track;
providing a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first
track;
providing a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud
characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more
longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between ends of the stud;
providing a clip for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first
track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:
a base fixable to the first track; and
a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms, at least one of the
arms compressingly engageable with the selected stud's web in a
characteristic operative sliding relationship;
engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip;
connecting the clip to the first track with a fastener; and
connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track with a fastener.

37. (previously presented) A deflection clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

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a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first member web to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

a guide depending from the base operatively slidably constraining the second member web during displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the base second surface and comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidably engage the second member during the displacement between the members; and

a second arm extending from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm, the second arm comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidably engage the second member during the displacement between the members, the arms being noncoplanar and spaced apart in a

direction transverse to the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis and with a selected spacing in relation to the characteristic arrangement of the second member to adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second member during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.

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38. (currently amended) A deflection clip for joining a first member and a second member in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

a planar base plate fixable to the first member; and

a guide depending from the base plate comprising:

a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base plate; and

a second arm extending from the base plate oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm defining a channel interposed laterally between the arms, the arms being noncoplanar and spaced apart with a selected spacing in relation to the second member to adaptively engage the second member permitting ~~permit~~ freedom of movement between the guide and the second member during displacement between the members.

39. (new) The clip of claim 38 wherein the arms are selectively spatially disposed to adaptively engage the second member with a selected frictional resistance to the displacement.

40. (new) The clip of claim 38 wherein the guide defines an opening in at least one of the arms adapted for admitting a retainer limiting displacement of the guide relative to the second member when an edge of the opening pressingly engages against the retainer.

41. (new) The clip of claim 40 wherein the opening comprises a slotted opening adapted to extend substantially along a longitudinal axis of the second member.

42. (new) The clip of claim 38 wherein the first member comprises a medial web and opposing flanges defining a cavity, wherein the base plate is adapted to substantially laterally span the cavity.

43. (new) The clip of claim 38 comprising a unitary construction.

44. (new) The clip of claim 38 wherein the base plate is fixable to the first member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the arms.

45. (new) The clip of claim 40 wherein the guide further comprises an indicia adaptively indicating a nominal position of the retainer.
